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JFK assassination footage joins film-registry classics

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NEW YORK — The most analyzed home movie of all time — Abraham Zapruder's footage of President John F. Kennedy's assassination — joined classics of comedy and suspense yesterday in the Library of Congress' registry of American film.

The 486 frames constitute the first amateur 8-millimeter film placed in the registry. The grainy color film, long key evidence in various investigations into the assassination, was shot in Dallas on Nov. 22, 1963.

It was among 25 films added to the registry. Others include *E.T. the Extra-Terrestrial* (1982); *The African Queen*, with Humphrey Bogart's 1951 Oscar-winning performance opposite Katharine Hepburn; and the 1944 *Meet Me in St. Louis*, in which Judy Garland sings on a trolley.

The registry was established in 1988 to preserve film deemed culturally, historically or esthetically important. James H. Billington, the librarian of Congress, announced the new titles, which bring the list to 150.

"It was very important to represent the whole body of amateur film which is important to our heritage," David Francis, chief of the motion picture division of the Library of Congress, said of the Zapruder film. "Here is a film which is probably the most famous amateur film of all time."

The 25 films added yesterday to the Library of Congress National Film Registry:

The African Queen, 1951.
The Apartment, 1960.
The Cool World, 1963.
A Corner in Wheat, 1909.
E.T. The Extra-Terrestrial, 1982.
The Exploits of Elaine, 1914.
Force of Evil, 1948.
Freaks, 1932.
Hell's Hinges, 1916.
Hospital, 1970.
Invasion of the Body Snatchers, 1956.
The Lady Eve, 1941.
Louisiana Story, 1948.
The Manchurian Candidate, 1962.
Marty, 1955.
Meet Me in St. Louis, 1944.
Midnight Cowboy, 1969.
A Movie, 1958.
Pinocchio, 1940.
Safety Last, 1923.
Scarface, 1932.
Snow White, 1933.
Tabu, 1931.
Taxi Driver, 1976.
Zapruder film of Kennedy assassination, 1963.